# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
# LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:99
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2016
Natural Rubber
Datta Shri Sankar Prasad

**Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:**

(a) whether Government has taken any steps to arrest the fall of natural rubber prices which has adversely affected a large number of people including rubber growers, labourers and their families and if so, the details thereof;

(b) the month-wise details of natural rubber imports through all the channels in to the country during 2015-16, up to 31st October, 2015; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to utilize Price Stabilisation fund to save rubber growers and rubber cultivation?

## Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
(SMT. NIRMALA SITHARAMAN)

(a) The Government has increased the duty on import of dry rubber from "20% or Rs 30 per kg whichever is lower" to "25% or Rs. 30 per kg. whichever is lower" w.e.f 30.4.2015 in order to increase the cost of imported rubber and create demand for locally produced rubber. The Government has also reduced the period of utilization of imported dry rubber under advance licensing scheme from 18 months to 6 months. RSS (Ribbed Smoked Sheet) and TSR (Technically Specified Rubber) has been added in Merchandise Export from India Scheme (MEIS) which make them eligible for an incentive at the rate of two per cent of export values.DGFT has imposed port restriction on the import of natural rubber by restricting the port of entry to Chennai and NhavaSheva(Jawaharlal Nehru Port) vide Notification No. 32/2015-2020 dated 20th January, 2016.

(b) The month-wise details of Natural Rubber imports into the country during 2015-16 are as under:
Month Import (Tonnes)
April, 2015 37916
May, 2015 34772
June, 2015 34098
July, 2015 38679
August, 2015 34788
September, 2015 34645
October, 2015 41295

(c) The Price Stabilization Fund Scheme was implemented by the Central Government from the year 2003 to 2013 with a view to protect the farmers of plantation crops including rubber, from losses on account of price fluctuations with the support from the Price Stabilisation Fund (PSF). The scheme was reviewed and, in light of the experience gained from implementing the Scheme, a market-linked Revenue Insurance Scheme for Plantation Crops (RISPC) has been devised for protecting the farmers of plantation crops, including rubber plantations, against losses arising from both fluctuations in yield as well as prices. The scheme has been shared with the State Governments to meet their share of insurance premium.
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